



## Potential Environmental Impacts

Degreasers used to clean metal parts may be solvents (chlorinated or non-chlorinated) or aqueous (water-based) cleaners. Solvent degreasers can be derived from variety of sources ranging from petroleum to orange peels. They usually contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can evaporate quickly and combine with combustion emissions to form ground level ozone, a major component of “smog.” Ozone damages lungs and degrades many materials. When solvents are released and reach water, even in very small quantities, they may render the water unfit for human consumption and uninhabitable for aquatic life. Many solvents are also flammable and may pose a fire hazard.



**Solvent Parts Washer**  
(lid should be closed when not in use)

## Legal Requirements

- ◆ A hazardous waste determination must be conducted to establish whether or not disposal of waste solvents and parts washer solutions is subject to hazardous waste regulations [40 CFR 262.11; RCRA Section 22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)(A)]. Manage hazardous waste as described in Appendix A.
- ◆ See Rags and Absorbents Fact Sheet for more information on managing solvent-soaked rags.
- ◆ Any parts washer that uses VOCs at room temperature must follow these equipment design and operating procedures [RCRA Section 22a-174-20(l)]:
  1. The cover must be easily operated with one hand and closed whenever the parts washer is not being used for 2 minutes or more.
  2. Parts must be covered during draining.
  3. Waste solvent must be stored in covered containers.
  4. Cleaned parts must be drained for at least 15 seconds, or until dripping ceases, whichever is longer.
  5. Degreasing solvent must be sprayed as a compact fluid stream (not a fine, atomized, or shower type) and at a pressure which does not exceed 10 psi.
  6. Operation must cease at the occurrence of any visible solvent leaks.
  7. Post labels on or near each unit summarizing the applicable operating requirements.
  8. Keep monthly records on the amount of solvent added to each unit.

## Best Management Practices

- ★ Make sure that your parts washer is clearly labeled with the type of cleaner it contains.
- ★ Use aqueous (water-based) cleaners containing no VOCs. Don't use a toxic or flammable solvent if you don't have to. Aqueous spray cabinets and ultrasonic units can clean even difficult-to-clean parts such as wheel bearings.
- ★ Use oil skimming and filtration to extend aqueous solution life. Skimmed oil can be recycled along with used oil. Spent filters can sometimes be recycled along with used oil filters.
- ★ Very heavily soiled parts should be pre-cleaned by scraping off the excess and then wiping with a rag.
- ★ Do not contaminate cleaning solution with other degreasers such as aerosol solvents. Chlorinated solvents and other hazardous chemicals may be included in such products as carburetor cleaners, engine degreasers, and brake cleaners. Always check for hazardous ingredients on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provided by the vendor.
- ★ Before purchasing or leasing an aqueous parts washer - 1) check with other facilities to learn about the unit's performance and 2) ask vendors for a trial period to test out the unit at your facility. For more information on aqueous parts cleaning, including cost comparisons and vendors, see the Purchasing Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs) Fact Sheet.
- ★ Never discard any degreasers into sinks, floor drains or onto the ground.



Using an aqueous-based parts washer

## Pollution Prevention Checklist

- ✓ Do you use aqueous (water-based) parts washers, where practical?      YES      NO      N/A
- 



### Did You Know?

Your greatest cost for parts cleaning is labor. The time spent cleaning parts is time you could otherwise spend servicing vehicles. Aqueous spray cabinets have substantially reduced labor costs for many facilities.

For a copy of a case study of a Connecticut facility that reduced its costs with a spray cabinet, contact CT-DEP's Office of Pollution Prevention at (860) 424-3297 or visit [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2).

### 2004 Pit Stops Fact Sheets

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Office of Pollution Prevention (860) 424-3297 [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/vehicle/abindex.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/vehicle/abindex.htm)  
Fact Sheet: DEP-P2 PITSTOPS-FS-006

Last Updated: August, 2004